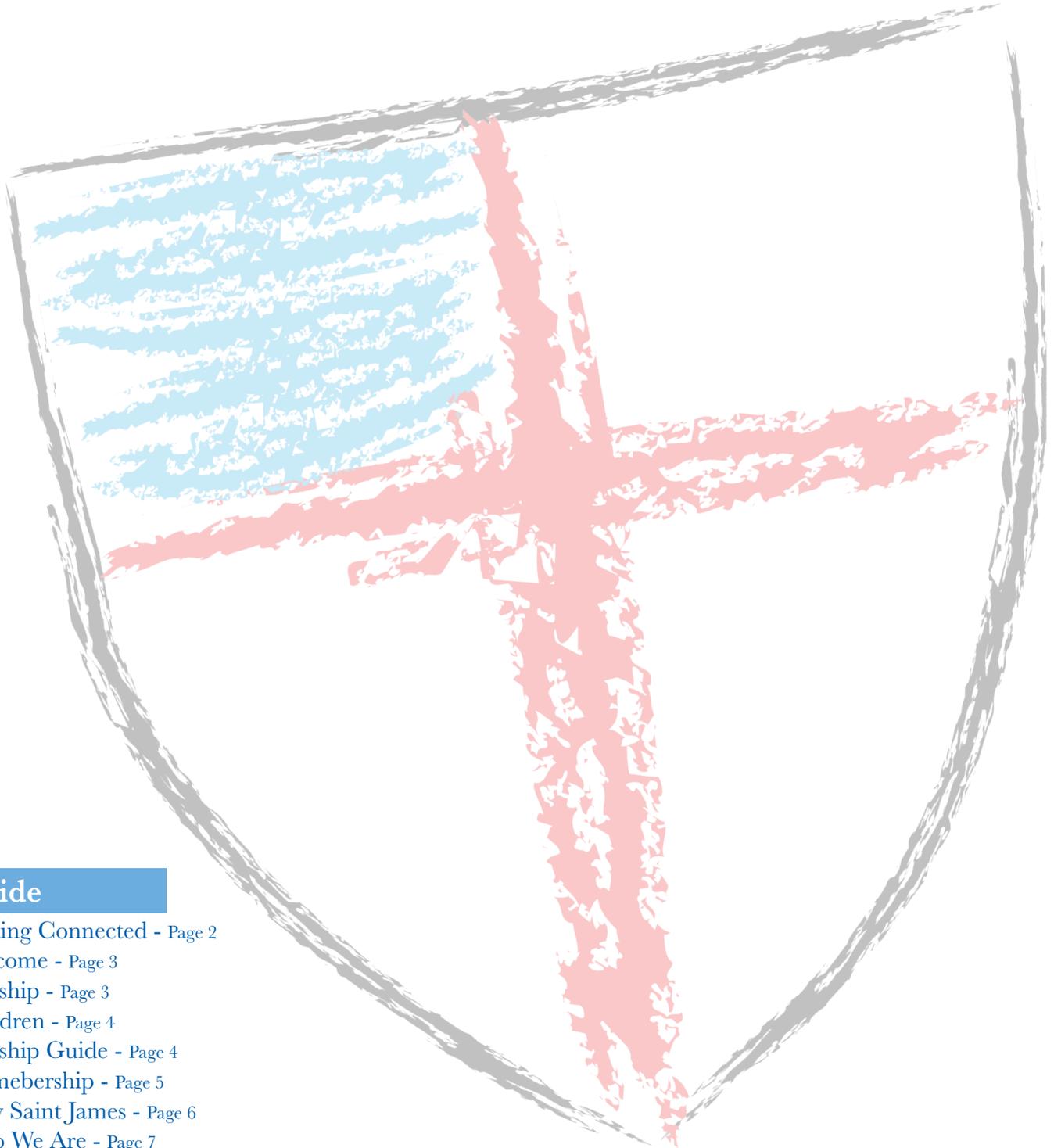


# Newcomer's Guide

Saint James Episcopal Church  
Greenfield, Massachusetts



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# Getting Connected

## Saint James Episcopal Church

### **Website:**

[www.saintjamesgreenfield.org](http://www.saintjamesgreenfield.org)

### **Looking Ahead:**

Our weekly worship leaflet includes details on upcoming events and programs. Pick one up at church on Sunday or view the announcements on our website.

### **“Connecting”:**

Stay updated on upcoming events and life at Saint James with our twice monthly electronic newsletter, the e\*Pistle. Sign up by emailing the office at [stjamesgfield@gmail.org](mailto:stjamesgfield@gmail.org) or download the latest issue on our website.

### **Facebook:**

Like us at [www.facebook.com/saintjamesgreenfield](http://www.facebook.com/saintjamesgreenfield). Saint James has an active Facebook page, which includes recent pictures, reminders of upcoming events, and useful links.

### **Twitter:**

Follow us at <https://twitter.com/saintjames01301>. Saint James has an active Twitter account, which includes recent pictures, reminders of upcoming events, and useful links.

### **Sermons & Reflections from Rev. Heather:**

Rev. Heather shares her weekly sermon and reflects on issues important to Saint James and the Episcopal Church. Be sure to follow her blog on our website.

## WELCOME

Welcome to Saint James! Whether you are passing through or looking for a church home, we invite you to explore this community. We at Saint James are eager to welcome you and look forward to an opportunity to meet you. Please fill out a Welcome Card, or give us a call or email to introduce yourself. And, check out these opportunities that are especially for Newcomers:

### **Festival Sundays**

During the year we have Fall, Winter, and Spring Festival Sundays where we come together as a faith community for one combined service at 10 a.m. Festival Sundays are a festival of worship, music, getting to know one another, food, fellowship, and fun.

### **Welcoming of New Members Liturgy**

Each fall and spring at our Festival Sundays we welcome new members into our community of faith with a special liturgy, followed by a celebration.

### **Inquirers' Class**

We offer a course every two years for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church. This class is especially helpful for those who are considering being confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church.

## WORSHIP

### **SATURDAY SERVICES**

5:30 p.m. A quiet, reflective worship of Holy Eucharist in All Saints Chapel

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:00 a.m. A quiet, reflective worship of Holy Eucharist using traditional language in All Saints Chapel

10:00 a.m. Our main worship, featuring hymns and choral anthems by the Choir from October-May in *Saint James Church*

During the summer months of June, July and August we combine our two Sunday morning worship services into one at 9 a.m. in Saint James Church.

Parking is available along the street on Federal, Church, and Franklin Streets, as well as in our parking lot. The parking lot is accessible by Saint James Court, off Church Street. If you are coming onto Church Street from Federal Street, Saint James Court and the Parish Hall will be on the right.

Parking in the parking lot means accessing the building from the back area near the Parish Hall. To enter the Parish Hall, use the main rear door (handicapped accessible) adjacent to the church parking lot. To access the church or the chapel, walk to Church Street via Saint James Court and proceed toward Federal Street to the chapel entrance on Church Street or to the main front entryway facing Federal Street.

# CHILDREN

## **Children in Worship**

Children of all ages are always welcome and encouraged to attend any worship service. We seek to make it as meaningful an experience for them as possible, and we encourage their participation throughout the service. Learning about the liturgy helps establish lifelong habits that will help children develop a strong faith of their own. For a closer look, children are invited to sit on the cushions in front of the pews. We also invite little ones to explore our children's corner in the back of the church. There they will find drawing and coloring materials, quiet toys, books, a blanket to crawl on, and comfortable chairs. All children are welcome at God's Table. It is the choice of parents to allow children to receive bread and wine at communion, in what way and at what age. Children who do not receive may receive a blessing from the priest.

## **Sunday School**

We offer Sunday School on Sunday mornings from October through May at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level of our Parish Hall where there is a story and lesson, followed by fun-filled activities to help kids relate the lessons to their daily lives. We provide a safe and loving environment, for children to grow in and engage our enriching program. At approximately 10:30 a.m. the Sunday School joins the rest of the congregation for the second part of the worship service. Caregivers are always welcome to join their children in Sunday School. If you are interested in registering your child for Sunday School, please speak to the Rector.

# WORSHIP GUIDE

It is our pleasure to share our worship with you. We hope that you find God's peace, hope, and joy in our midst. Our worship is primarily drawn from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, and the 1982 Hymnal. We also supplement our worship with other liturgies, prayers, and hymns approved by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. At each worship service there is a comprehensive worship leaflet that contains everything you need to fully participate in worship. You are also always welcome to follow along in the prayer book and hymnal if that is your preference. Our hope is that these worship leaflets make it easier for newcomers to join in worship.

The first half of the service of Holy Eucharist is called "The Word of God". Readings are offered from the Bible, a sermon is preached, we offer prayers, and pass the peace. The second part of the service is "The Holy Communion". Here thanksgiving is offered, bread and wine are consecrated and then shared. Here at Saint James we welcome all people to God's Table to receive communion. Ushers will indicate when it is time to come forward. Please hold out your hands to receive the consecrated bread. You may consume this right away, then take a sip from the cup. Or, you may hold onto your bread and dip it into the cup. Receiving the host alone is sufficient, if you would prefer not to receive the consecrated wine. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Cross your hands over your chest, so the celebrant will know to offer you a prayer of blessing.

# MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of Saint James, you may find these common questions and answers to be helpful to you:

**Q: What does it mean to be a member of Saint James?**

A: Saint James members are baptized Christians who are committed to help carry out the Church's mission of restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. Saint James is a welcoming community that strives to be inclusive, embraces and nurtures faith in God, and challenges its members to affirm that faith in action. Our mission priorities are to support children and their caregivers and to increase utilization of our beautiful campus. We ask members to commit to the three P's of membership: Presence, Participation, and Pledge.

**Presence:** We ask members to be present in worship regularly, where we will learn more about God as God is revealed in Jesus Christ.

**Participation:** We ask members to participate in the life of the community in worship, fellowship, and service by using our God-given talents, gifts, and skills in Christian ministry.

**Pledge:** We ask members to make an annual pledge of financial giving for the benefit of the Kingdom of God.

**Q: I've never belonged to any church before. How do I become a Christian and a member of Saint James?**

A: Baptism marks the beginning of a new life in Christ. To become a member of any Episcopal Church, this is the first step. If you have never been baptized, we invite you to contact the Rector to learn about the sacrament of Baptism, and how to become baptized. In addition to baptism, when you feel you are ready, you will be formally welcomed into Saint James community at our Welcoming of New Members liturgy that takes place at our Fall and Spring Festival Sundays.

**Q: I've been baptized in a church other than Saint James. How do I become a member here?**

A: It's very simple! Inform the Rector that you wish to be made a member. We will invite you to formally join the Saint James community at our Welcoming of New Members liturgy that takes place at our Fall and Spring Festival Sundays. You will be recorded as a member of Saint James, and welcomed to participate in all programs and ministries. If your membership is recorded in another Episcopal parish, we will request that a letter of transfer be sent on your behalf.

## WHY SAINT JAMES

There are many important factors to consider when choosing a church home: denomination, worship traditions, friendliness and community involvement, just to name a few. As you consider whether Saint James is a place for you, here are a few distinctive things to note:

- **The Episcopal Church:** The Episcopal Church is a diverse and welcoming Christian tradition with a rich history and a lively engagement of the modern context.
- **Welcoming:** We are an inclusive, welcoming community that believes worship should engage people of all ages, and are committed to making worship meaningful for the whole church. No matter what your age or situation, there is a place for you.
- **Sunday School:** We have an excellent team of adults that care deeply for children and their caregivers, who seek to give children an outstanding spiritual formation experience that leaves children eager to come back again and again.
- **Outstanding Music:** We have two talented parish musicians and a dedicated choir that offer excellent music. The music enhances our worship and community, and provides opportunities for people to offer their talents for the glory of God.
- **Outreach:** Saint James is committed to serving those facing poverty and hardship. Our three largest community outreach programs are Second Helpings, a free community meal that takes place every Monday at 5:30pm; Bread of Life, an ecumenical ministry that provides meals on the weekends to shut-ins; and our new Essentials Pantry, a community pantry that provides free personal care items on the last Monday of the month at 4:30pm.
- **Neighborhood Involvement:** We care deeply for our neighborhood and are always seeking to build stronger relationships with our neighbors, whether it's through our annual Federal Street Neighborhood Block Party, sharing our spaces with the community, or parishioners volunteering at local schools, hospitals, and service agencies.
- **Active Community:** Saint James is more than just Sundays. Throughout the week, there are many ways to be involved in education, fellowship, and ministry.

## WHO WE ARE

Saint James Church is an Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement in Greenfield, Massachusetts. We are a worshipping community of believers united in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to receive and share God's love, hope, joy, vitality, and vision as we serve others.

### **A Brief History**

The Church of Saint James was organized in Greenfield, Massachusetts in the fall of 1812 by a small, but faithful group of Episcopalians that met in private homes. In May of 1813, they purchased the land that our church now sits upon and within a few days the cornerstone of the church was laid. They built a wooden church that served as their home for thirty-three years. The building became in desperate need of repairs, and they decided to sell their building to the Methodist Church just down the street. In its place, they built a new stone church that was consecrated in 1849. Over the years we have grown as a parish, which has allowed us to expand our campus and our ministries. We have a long history of engaging in the work of social justice, especially through ministries that address hunger in the greater community. In 2013, we celebrated our bicentennial and have begun a new and exciting time in our parish life.

### **The Episcopal Church**

Saint James is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and a member of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. The Episcopal Church is the American province of the Anglican Communion, a worldwide body of over 70 million Christians who trace their origins to the Church of England. Episcopalians are thinking Christians who engage questions of faith with both seriousness and great joy. Often, The Episcopal Church is called a "bridge church" between Roman Catholicism and other Protestant denominations. This is because much Episcopal theology is Protestant in nature, while much of Episcopal worship, spiritual practice, and church structure resemble Catholicism. As a result, individuals and families from a variety of backgrounds will find in the Episcopal Church a home that honors their own faith tradition while providing a new source of shared nourishment. Newcomers will find a diverse faith community that welcomes questions and discussion.

More information on these topics is available online at:

### **The Episcopal Church**

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org>

### **The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts**

<http://www.diocesewma.org>

## GETTING INVOLVED

The best way to get more involved is to begin by visiting our website at [www.saintjamesgreenfield.org](http://www.saintjamesgreenfield.org). There we list the latest opportunities to serve, whether it be in worship, in the parish, or in the wider community. We also list the latest opportunities for spiritual formation for adults, children, and our new health ministry. The next step would be to schedule a time to meet with the Rector or a member of the Welcome Team to help get you connected to these service and growth opportunities.

### GETTING AROUND

#### Restrooms

Restrooms are located through the door to the right of the altar. Go through the door, down the hall, and you will find the restrooms directly in front of you.

#### Coffee Hour

Please join us for coffee in the Parish Hall after 10 a.m. worship. To get to the Parish Hall, go through the door at the right of the altar, then down the hall, out the door, at the far end. Go into the next building and up the stairs to your left.

#### Campus Map

We hope the map included will help as you make your way across campus.

## CONTACT US

### SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8 Church Street, Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301

(413) 773-3925

[stjamesgfield@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesgfield@gmail.com)

[www.saintjamesgreenfield.org](http://www.saintjamesgreenfield.org)

[www.facebook.com/saintjamesgreenfield](https://www.facebook.com/saintjamesgreenfield)

#### Meet the Team

Learn more about our clergy, staff, and team leaders on the bulletin board outside the office and on our website at: <http://www.saintjamesgreenfield.org/meet-the-team>

## BLESSING

*A sentiment by Henri Frederic Amiel that was adapted into a blessing said at most of our worship services.*

My friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us, so be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned with the hope of our future than the sins of our past. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.